

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 17-46 and 48.

1. (Currently Amended) A prosthetic intervertebral disc comprising:

top and bottom endplates, ~~said endplates comprising an interface element adapted to interface with a vertebral body fixation element;~~ and

a fibrous compressible element positioned between said top and bottom endplates, wherein said compressible element has a configuration that includes an annular region and a nuclear region;

wherein said top and bottom end plates are held together by at least one fiber wound around at least one region of said top end plate and at least one region of said bottom end plate, and wherein said top and bottom endplates each comprise a plurality of peripheral slots through which said at least one fiber passes to attach said top and bottom end plates to said fibrous compressible element.

2. (Previously Presented) The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 1, wherein said top and bottom endplates comprise mating elements for interfacing with upper and lower vertebral body fixation elements.

3. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 1, wherein said top and bottom endplates further comprise integrated upper and lower vertebral body fixation elements.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently amended) The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim [4] 1, wherein

said fibrous compressible element comprises a fibrous component that is limited to said annular region.

6. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 4, wherein said fibrous compressible element comprises a fibrous component that extends into at least a portion of said nuclear region.

7. (Currently amended) The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim [4] 1, wherein said endplates have planar surfaces and wherein said fibrous compressible element comprises a fiber winding pattern that includes at least a component which is oblique with respect to the planar surfaces of the top and bottom plates.

8. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 7, wherein said fiber winding pattern further includes a component that is horizontal or vertical with respect to the planar surfaces of the top and bottom plates.

9. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 7, wherein said fibrous compressible element further comprises a three-dimensional woven fabric component.

10. (Previously presented) The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 1, wherein said fibrous compressible element is combined with at least one polymeric component.

11. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 10, wherein said at least one polymeric component is impregnated with fibers of said fibrous compressible element.

12. (Previously presented) The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 10, wherein the fibers of said fibrous compressible element are not impregnated with a polymeric component.

13. (Original) The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 10, wherein said at least one polymeric component is present in said nucleus region.

14. (Original) The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 10, wherein said at least one polymeric component is present in said annular region.

15. (Original) The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 10, wherein said disc comprises at least two different polymeric components.

16. (Currently Amended) A system for replacing an intervertebral disc with a prosthetic intervertebral disc, said system comprising:

(a) a prosthetic intervertebral disc comprising:

(i) top and bottom endplates each comprising a plurality of peripheral slots; and

(ii) a fibrous compressible element positioned between said top and bottom endplates, wherein said compressible element has a configuration that includes an annular region and a nuclear region;

wherein said top and bottom end plates are held together by at least one fiber wound around at least one region of said top end plate and at least one region of said bottom end plate, and passing through at least one of said peripheral slots; and

(b) upper and lower vertebral body fixation elements that mate respectively with said top and bottom endplates.

17-46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently Amended) A method for replacing an intervertebral disc with a prosthetic intervertebral disc, said method comprising:

- (a) implanting into said void disc space created by removing an intervertebral disc a prosthetic intervertebral disc comprising:
  - (i) top and bottom endplates each comprising a plurality of peripheral slots; and
  - (ii) a fibrous compressible element positioned between said top and bottom endplates, wherein said compressible element has a configuration that includes an annular region and a nuclear region;wherein said top and bottom end plates are held together by at least one fiber wound around at least one region of said top end plate and at least one region of said bottom end plate, and passing through at least one of said peripheral slots; and
- (b) attaching said prosthetic intervertebral disc to the vertebra above and below said void disc space.

48. (Cancelled).